

Mr. Chairman, every member of this body respects and deeply appreciates the contributions of our veterans. This institution is the home of many proud war veterans—liberal and conservative; Democrat and Republican.

This issue is not one of partisanship but rather one of dignity.

Veterans may appear like regular people—but they are not. They are an uncommon brand of hero. These people made the conscious decision to put their own life, their hopes, and their future on hold to stand up for the basic principles of their homeland: freedom, liberty, and a proud tradition of justice. They are the men and women of courage and integrity.

I would like to share with my colleagues a story of one of these men of integrity—Mr. Eugene Mozer of Jackson Heights, in my district.

He was a World War II veteran decorated with a Purple Heart after being wounded in battle. He was a patriot. Mr. Mozer personifies the thousands of veterans that live in each of our home communities.

This past February, Mr. Mozer passed away. His wife, Faustina Gobirli, and their son attempted to acquire a Military Honor Guard for his burial service. They believed that an Honor Guard would be a fitting tribute to this man's life—a life he was prepared to sacrifice for this nation.

After contacting the military and explaining the situation, Ms. Gobirli was informed by the military that they, incredulously, could not fulfill her family's request for a military Honor Guard.

Or, Mr. Chairman, I call your attention to the countless other stories of families of deceased veterans contacting the military to request an Honor Guard only to receive a cassette tape of TAPS in the mail.

These are gross indignities to the people who were willing to die for our freedom—for people they would never know, let alone meet.

Mr. Mozer and his family and the thousands of other distinguished veterans and their families deserve a more apt tribute—a tribute that appropriately reflects the gratitude and indebtedness of this nation.

A military Honor Guard at the funeral of a veterans serves as the final salute of a grateful nation. Let us not deny them this final call of respect. I urge you to support this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH HOLMES BOUTELLE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who with boundless energy and enthusiasm researched and authored an award-winning book and became the world's foremost authority on the renowned architect Julia Morgan. Sarah Holmes Boutelle passed away in Santa Cruz last May at the age of 90.

Born on January 29, 1909 in South Dakota, Sarah was a history teacher and school administrator when she came to Santa Cruz county in 1972 and visited Hearst Castle with her son, Christopher. Upon learning that Julia Morgan was the architect who built San

Simeon, Mrs. Boutelle's interest, as a teacher, in female role models led her to seek more information about the renowned architect. Sarah's research on Julia Morgan cumulated in a book that won a California Book Award and Mrs. Boutelle's naming as an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects. Throughout the remainder of her life, Sarah continued to travel extensively, investigating new Julia Morgan material and lecturing.

Sarah Holmes Boutelle was truly a remarkable woman who will be fondly remembered for her energy and enthusiasm as well as her extraordinary effort and contribution to the appreciation of architecture. She will be missed by the many people she touched both personally and through her writing and lectures during her lifetime.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS CHILDREN'S EQUITY ACT OF 1999

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with Representatives ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and CONNIE MORELLA, the "Federal Employees Health Benefits Children's Equity Act of 1999."

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 required States to enact legislation requiring employers to enroll a child in an employee's group health plan when a court orders the employee to provide health insurance for the child but the employee fails to do so. The Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) law provided that a Federal employee "may enroll" in a FEHB plan "either as an individual or for self and family" coverage. The law does not allow an employing agency to elect coverage on the employee's behalf. Further, FEHB law generally preempts State law with regard to coverage and benefits. Therefore, a federal agency is unable to ensure that a child is covered in accordance with a court order, even when the same order would ensure coverage for the child if the child's parent were employed by an employer other than the federal government.

To correct this inequity, my proposal would enable the federal government to enroll an employee and his or her family in the FEHB Program when a State court orders the employee to provide health insurance coverage for a child of the employee. If the affected employee is already enrolled for self-only coverage, the employing agency would be authorized to change the enrollment to self and family. If the affected employee is not enrolled in the FEHB Program, the employing agency would be required to enroll him or her under the standard option of the Service Benefit Plan, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Finally, the employee would be barred from discontinuing the self and family enrollment as long as the court order remains in effect, the child meets the statutory definition of family member, and the employee cannot show that the child has other insurance.

I am very pleased about the broad constituency that supports my proposal. Among the groups that have offered support for the

change are the American Payroll Association, which represents employers, the Center for Law and Social Policy, which represents the rights of indigent parents and several state child support program officials.

I am also pleased to introduce this important legislation during National Payroll Week—September 13–17—and to have the support of those who are key to the wage and medical support withholding process.

Please join me and Representatives ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and CONNIE MORELLA in cosponsoring this worthwhile measure. It will help our efforts to ensure that our children have access to needed health insurance coverage.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NAMING OF THE GLORIA S. WIL- LIAMS BUILDING AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives a very special event which will take place on Tuesday, September 14, 1999. On that date, the campus of New Jersey's William Paterson University will undergo a transformation which, in itself, exemplifies their commitment to their mission of providing quality instruction in an environment of leadership and diversity. This transformation is the renaming of one of the University buildings in honor of a remarkable person, the late Gloria S. Williams. This ceremony marks a truly historic event, the first time that a structure has been named for an African-American on the campus of William Paterson University.

Gloria S. Williams, a native of Newark, excelled throughout her educational career here in New Jersey. She began her quest for knowledge in Newark's public school system and it eventually led her to William Paterson University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minor in Economics. Throughout her rich life, Gloria S. Williams made certain to place the needs of others before those of herself. This selfless behavior was evident in her decision to share her knowledge and experiences as a teacher in the Paterson School District after her college graduation. Her experiences at William Paterson University was not simply limited to an undergraduate education. As an undergraduate, Gloria was an employee of the University and immediately following graduation she remained with the University as a dorm assistant and summer camp coordinator. After that, her career at William Paterson flourished. Gloria held many important positions including Residence Hall Director, Assistant Registrar, and ultimately she was named Associate Director of the Advisement Center where she was well known for always having on open door. Because of Gloria's rich involvement with others and with William Paterson University, it is a fitting tribute that the University chose to name a building in her honor. Gloria S. Williams was also very active in the church. As a youngster she was a member of St. Luke's A.M.E. Church where her parents, Daisy and O'Donnel Williams,